

**MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
MARCH 15, 2006**

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order at 5:31 p.m., Wednesday, March 15, 2006, in Meeting Room A of the Watauga County Cooperative Extension Office, 971 West King Street, Boone, NC. Mayor Loretta Clawson presided. Council members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Lynne Mason, Dempsey Wilcox, and Bunk Spann. Water Study Committee members present were Pam Williamson and Steve Owen. Town staff members present were Greg Young-Town Manager, Rick Miller-Public Utilities Director, John Spear-Development Services Director, Kim Tester-Deputy Town Clerk, and Megan Wilson-Program Coordinator I.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a rate structure that promotes water conservation.

Mayor Clawson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. She invited Council member Spann to begin the discussion. Council member Spann began by introducing the subcommittee members and gave a brief description of what the subcommittee has been doing. He described the discussion concerning mandatory water conservation measures and the possible effect of the implementation of these measures. He stated such concerns as persons on fixed-incomes and addressing the water system as an enterprise system that were considered during the discussions.

Council member Spann invited Committee member Owen to present information entitled: *Water Conservation Approaches* (permanently on file). Committee member Owen summarized this information by stating that it corresponds to efforts being made by other municipalities and affirms the direction of the subcommittee.

Patrick Beville, a professional engineer and project engineer from Appalachian State University, presented a power-point presentation entitled: *Water Conservation Through Water Rate Increases* (permanently on file). Regarding information presented outlining the largest water users within the town, Council member Wilcox stated that the example of the Bavarian Village should not be categorized in this manner since the units in the complex are not individually metered. He stated that it is unfair to the water customers who are not using more water to be lumped in with those who do use a lot of water. Council member Wilcox asked what the incentive would be to conserve water if the property owner passes the increase in fees to the customer. Council member Spann suggested that the subcommittee be tasked with studying specific situations such as this. Council member Mason agreed, stating that the subcommittee should closely analyze commercial situations and provide more information to the Water Committee. Committee member Williamson offered that, if the goal is to encourage individual meters on apartments, then the Council may need to make an ordinance change to promote the goal. Mayor Clawson asked how a change in rates would affect the upcoming budget preparations. Town Manager Greg Young stated that questions about how this would affect sewer revenue by decreasing water usage and what impact a change in rates would have on paying for debt service would need to be considered. Council member Spann pointed out that making rate changes could have an impact on several areas and that such a change would require further study. Committee member Williamson stated she would like to hear more information presented about ecosystem water sources at a future meeting.

Mayor Clawson opened the floor for questions or comments from the public. Lynne White, a resident from the Wintergreen Lane and Flowers Drive neighborhood, stated a concern with the water allocation to a large development adjacent to her neighborhood. She stated that based on the current water situation, she feels concern about the allocation to this project for 7,296 gallons-per-day. She asked why water had been allocated to a building site plan when the approved plan for the site is for a parking lot. Utilities Director Rick Miller stated that when the application was submitted in 2005, it was for a hotel use and that was the information presented to the Town Council.

Council member Spann introduced Joseph Montemurno to the Water Committee. He stated that Mr. Montemurno has expressed an interest in joining the committee as it explores the water issue. Mr. Montemurno commended the Council and Committee on their efforts thus far and stated that he has some experience in water issues. He was invited to complete a board application to submit to the Council for possible appointment.

With no other agenda items before the Council, Mayor Clawson adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor

